

Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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S E C R E T TEHRAN 0682

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TAGS: PFOR, IR, IS

SUBJ: IRAN/ISRAELI RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 0085

1. UNOFFICIAL ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, URI LUBRANI, INFORMED ME JANUARY 22 THAT IRANIAN AND ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY TEAMS HAD SAT DOWN FOR A TWO-DAY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SHORTLY AFTER ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON'S VISIT TO TEHRAN (CF. REFTEL). THE IRANIAN TEAM WAS HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS NASSIR ASSAR, AND THE ISRAELI TEAM BY FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR GENERAL KIDRON (SP). THE ISRAELIS HAD PRESENT THE CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE MIDDLE EAST DIVISION AS WELL AS A COUPLE OF RESEARCHERS. THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING "LIKE A PING-PONG MATCH" AND THE ISRAELIS FOUND IT MODERATELY ENCOURAGING. THEY RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT IRAN FELT SOMEWHAT MORE ISOLATED FROM ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS THESE DAYS AND THAT THE GOI WAS MORE "ATTENTIVE" TO ISRAELI SUGGESTIONS THAN IN PAST SIMILAR SESSIONS (ANNUAL MEETINGS BUT HELD SPASMODICALLY). ISRAELIS GOT DISTINCT FEELING THAT GOI'S EFFORTS TO BE DOMINANT IN REGION WERE BEING REBUFFED NOT ONLY BY THE SHEIKHDOMS BUT ALSO BY SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAQ. THE ISRAELIS TOOK AWAY NOTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE BUT THEY DID FEEL THAT THE MEETINGS WERE WORTHWHILE.

2. LUBRANI FOUND ASSAR A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT

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OVER TAJBAKSH. JAFFAR NADIM, UNDER SECRETARY

FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, PARTICIPATED PERIODICALLY IN THE MEETINGS. LUBRANI HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR HIS PERCEPTION AND KNOWLEDGE BUT FEELS THAT HE DOES NOT LIKE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY EVEN THOUGH HE IS CLOSE TO AND INFLUENTIAL WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY. THIS CONFIRMS WITH OUR OWN OBSERVATIONS.

3. LUBRANI RETURNED FROM TRIP TO ISRAEL ONLY ON JANUARY 19, HENCE THIS DELAY IN REPORTING THE MEETING IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH ONE ABOVE.
HELMS

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NNN

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